

SOM

SOMETHING. *n. f.* [rum'ding, Saxon.]

1. Not nothing, though it appears not what; a thing or matter indeterminate.

When fierce Bavar
Did from afar the British chief behold,
Betwixt despair and rage, and hope and pain,
Something within his warring bosom roll'd.
The force of the air upon the pulmonary artery is but
small, in respect of that of the heart; but it is still some-
thing.

You'll say the whole world has something to do, something to
talk of, something to wish for, and something to be employed
about; but pray put all these somethings together, and what is
the sum total but just nothing.

Here the beholds the chaos dark and deep,
Where nameless somethings in their causes sleep.

2. More or less.
Something yet of doubt remains.

Years following years steal something ev'ry day,
At least they steal us from ourselves away.

3. Part.
Something of it arises from our infant state.

4. Distance not great.
I will acquaint you with the perfect spy o' th' time; for't
must be done to-night, and something from the palace.

SOMETHING. *adv.* In some degree.
The pain went away upon it; but he was something dis-
couraged by a new pain falling some days after upon his elbow
on the other side.

SOMETIME. *adv.* [some and time.] Once; formerly.
What art thou that usurp'st this time of night,
Together with that fair and warlike form,
In which the majesty of buried Denmark
Did sometime march?

SOMETIMES. *adv.* [some and times.]
1. Not never; now and then; at one time or other.
I will render me more equal, sometime superior.

It is good that we sometimes be contradicted, and that we
always bear it well; for perfect peace cannot be had in this
world.

2. At one time, opposed to sometimes, or to another time.
The body passive is better wrought upon at sometimes than
at others.

Sometimes the one, and sometimes the other, may be glanced
upon in these scripture descriptions.

He writes not always of a piece, but sometimes mixes trivial
things with those of greater moment: sometimes also, though
not often, he runs riot, and knows not when he has said
enough.

SOMEWHAT. *n. f.* [some and what.]
1. Something; not nothing, though it be uncertain what.
Upon the sea somewhat methought did rise
Like blueish mists.

He that shuts his eyes against a small light, on purpose to
avoid the sight of somewhat that displeases him, would, for
the same reason, shut them against the sun.

2. More or less.
Concerning every of these, somewhat Christ hath com-
manded, which must be kept 'till the world's end: on the con-
trary side, in every of them somewhat there may be added, as
the church judges it expedient.

These fals have somewhat of a nitrous taste, but mixt with
a smatch of vitriolick.

3. Part greater or less.
Somewhat of his good sense will suffer in this transfusion,
and much of the beauty of his thoughts will be lost.

SOMEWHERE. *adv.* [some and where.] In one place or other;
not nowhere.
Hopeless and forelorn
They are return'd, and somewhere live obscurely.

Compelling two priests hard together, that their sides,
which by chance were a very little convex, might somewhere
touch one another, I found the place in which they touched to
become absolutely transparent, as if they had there been one
continued piece of glass.

Does something still, and somewhere yet remain,
Reward or punishment?

Of the dead we must speak gently; and therefore, as Mr.
Dryden says somewhere, peace be to its manes.

SOMEWHILE. *n. f.* [some and while.] Once; for a time. Out
of use.
Though under colour of the shepherds somewhere,
There crept in wolves full of fraud and guile,
That often devoured their own sheep,
And often the shepherd that did 'em keep.

SON

SOMNIFEROUS. *adj.* [somniafero, Fr. somnifer, Latin.] Causing
sleep; procuring sleep; soporiferous; dormitive.

I wish for some somniferous potion, that might force me to
sleep away the intermitted time, as it does with men in for-
row.

SOMNIFICK. *adj.* [somnia and facio, Latin.] Causing sleep.

SOMNOLENCY. *n. f.* [somnia, Latin.] Sleepiness; incli-
nation to sleep.

SON. *n. f.* [sonus, Gothic; suna, Saxon; son, German;
son, Swedish; sone, Dutch; son, Slavonian.]

1. A male born of one or begotten by one; correlative to father
or mother.

She had a son for her cradle, ere she had a husband for her
bed.

Cast out this bondswoman and her son.

He compares the affection of the Divine Being to the indul-
gence of a wife father, who would have his sons exercised with
labour and pain, that they may gather strength.

2. Defendant however distant: as, the sons of Adam.

3. Compellation of an old to a young man, or of a confessor to
his penitent.

Be plain, good son, and homely in thy drift;
Riddling confession finds but riddling thrift.

4. Native of a country.
Britain then
Sees arts her savage sons controul.

5. The second person of the Trinity.
If thou be the son of God, come down.

6. Product of any thing.
Our imperfections prompt our corruption, and loudly tell
us we are sons of earth.

Earth's tall sons, the cedar, oak, and pine,
Their parents undecaying strength declare.

7. In scripture, sons of pride, and sons of light, denoting some
quality. 'Tis a Hebraism.

This new favorite
Of heav'n, this man of clay, son of despite.

SON-IN-LAW. *n. f.* One married to one's daughter.
If virtue no benighted beauty lack,
Your son-in-law is far more fair than black.

A foreign son-in-law shall come from far,
Whose race shall bear aloft the Latian name.

SONSHIP. *n. f.* [from son.] Filiation; the character of a son.
The apostle to the Hebrews makes afflictions not only in-
cident but necessary to Christianity, the badge and cognizance
of sonship.

SONATA. *n. f.* [Italian.] A tune.
He whistled a Scotch tune, and an Italian sonata.

Could Pedro, think you, make no trial
Of a sonata on his viol,

Unless he had the total gut,
Whence every string at first was cut.

SONG. *n. f.* [from gungun, Saxon.]
1. Any thing modulated in the utterance.
Noise other than the sound of dance and song.

He first thinks fit no sonnetter advance
His censure farther than the song or dance.

2. A poem to be modulated by the voice; a ballad.
Pardon, goddess of the night,
Those that flew thy virgin knight;
For the which, with songs of woe,
Round about his tomb they go!

In her days ev'ry man shall sing
The merry songs of peace to all his neighbours.

3. A poem; lay; strain.
The bard that first adorn'd our native tongue,
Tun'd to his British lyre this ancient song.

4. Poetry; poesy.
This subject for heroic song pleas'd me.

Names memorable long,
If there be force in virtue, or in song.

5. Notes of birds.
The lark, the messenger of day,
Saluted in her song the morning grey.

6. An old song. A trifle.
I do not intend to be thus put off with an old song.

A hopeful youth, newly advanced to great honour, was
forced by a cobler to resign all for an old song.

SONGIST. *adj.* [from song.] Containing songs; consisting
of songs. A low word.

The songist part must abound in the softness and variety of
numbers, its intention being to please the hearing.

SONGSTER. *n. f.* [from song.] A singer. Used of human
singers, it is a word of slight contempt.

The pretty songsters of the Spring with their various notes
did seem to welcome him as he passed.

Some songsters can no more sing in any chamber but their
own, than some clerks read in any book but their own.

Either songster holding out their throats,
And folding up their wings, renew'd their notes.

SOO

SO'GSTRESS. *n. f.* [from song.] A female singer.

Through the soft silence of the listening night,
The sober-suited songstress trills her lay.

SONNET. *n. f.* [sonnet, French; sonnetto, Italian.]

1. A short poem consisting of fourteen lines, of which the
rhymes are adjusted by a particular rule. It is not very sui-
table to the English language, and has not been used by any
man of eminence since Milton.

A book was writ of late call'd Tetrachordon,
And woven close, both matter, form, and stile;

The subject new: it walk'd the town a-while;
Numb ring good intellects, now seldom por'd on:

Cries the flail-reader, Bles us, what a word on
A title-page is this! while some in file

Stand spelling false, while one might walk to Mile-
End-green. Why is it harder, first, than Gordon,

Colkito, or Macdonnell, or Galasp?
Those rugged names to our like mouths grow sleek,

That would have made Quintilian stare and gasp:
Thy age like ours, foul of fir John Cheek,

Hated not learning worse than toad or alp,
When thou taught'st Cambridge and king Edward

Greek.

2. A small poem.
Let us into the city presently,
To fort some gentlemen well skill'd in musick;

I have a sonnet that will serve the turn.

SONNETTER. *n. f.* [sonnetter, French; from sonnet.] A small
poet, in contempt.

Assist me, f me extemporal god of rhyme; for I am sure I
shall turn sonnetter.

He first thinks fit no sonnetter advance
His censure farther than the song or dance.

There are as many kinds of gardening as of poetry: your
makers of parterres and flower-gardens are epigrammatists and
sonnetters in this art.

What woful stuff this madrigal would be,
In some star'd hackney sonneteer or me?

But let a lord own the happy lines,
How the wit brightens! how the style refines!

SONIFEROUS. *adj.* [sonus and fero, Latin.] Giving or bring-
ing sound.

This will appear, let the subject matter of sounds be what
it will; either the atmosphere, or the ethereal part thereof, or
soniferous particles of bodies.

SONORIFIC. *adj.* [sonorus and facio, Lat.] Producing sound.

If he should ask me why a clock strikes, and points to the
hour; and I should say, it is by an indicating form and soni-
fic quality, this would be unsatisfactory.

SONOROUS. *adj.* [sonorus, French; sonorus, Latin.]

1. Loud sounding; giving loud or shrill sound. Bodies are dis-
tinguished as sonorous or unsonorous.

All the while
Sonorous metal blowing martial sounds;

At which the universal host up-vent
A shout that tore hell's concave.

2. High sounding; magnificent of sound.
The Italian opera, amidst all the meanfess and familiarity
of the thoughts, has something beautiful and sonorous in the
expression.

SONOROUSLY. *adv.* [from sonorous.] With high sound; with
magnificence of sound.

SONOROUSNESS. *n. f.* [from sonorous.]

1. The quality of giving sound.
Enquiring of a maker of viols and lutes of what age he
thought lutes ought to be, to attain their full and best reason-
ing for sonorousness, he replied, that in some twenty years
would be requisite, and in others forty.

2. Magnificence of sound.
SON. *adv.* [sonus, Gothic; sona, Saxon; son, Dutch.]

1. Before long time be past; shortly after any time assigned or
supposed.

Nor did they not perceive their evil plight,
Yet to their gen'ral's voice they son obey'd.

You must obey me, son or late;
Why should you vainly struggle with your fate?

2. Early; before any time supposed: opposed to late.
O boy! thy father gave thee life too soon,
And hath bereft thee of thy life too late.

Do this, that I may be reformed to you the sooner.

How is it that you are come so soon to-day?

The earlier slayeth for the later, and not that the later
comes sooner.

3. Really; willingly.
I would as soon see a river winding through woods and mea-
dows, as when it is tossed up in so many whimsical figures at
Verdill's.

4. It has in Sidney the signification of an adjective, whether
licentious or according to the custom of his time.

He hath preferred Argalus alive, under pretence of having
him publicly executed after these wars, of which they hope
for a soon and prosperous issue.

SOO

5. Soon. *as.* Immediately; at the very time.

As soon as he came nigh unto the camp, he saw the calf and
the dance.

Nor was his virtue poison'd, soon as born,
With the too early thoughts of being king.

SOONLY. *adv.* [from soon.] Quickly; speedily. This word I
remember in no other place; but if soon be, as it seems once
to have been, an adjective, soonly is proper.

A mafon meets with a stone that wants no cutting, and,
soonly approving of it, places it in his work.

SO'OPBERRY. *n. f.* [sopindus, Latin.] A plant.
It hath a flower, which for the most part is composed of
four leaves, expanding in form of a rose; from whose four-
leaved empanement arises the pointal, which afterward becomes
a spherical fruit, inclosing a nut of the same form.

SOOT. *n. f.* [soot, Saxon; soot, Islandick; soot, Dutch.] Con-
densed or embodied smoke.

Soot, though thin spread in a field, is a very good com-
post.

If the fire be not kept within the tunnel of the chimney,
and some appointed to sweep down the soot, the house will be in
danger of burning.

Of they assay'd,
Hunger and thirst constraining; drugg'd as oft
With hatefullest distill'd, writ'd their jaws,
With soot and cinders fill'd.

Our household gods, that droop upon our hearths,
Each from his venerable face shall bruth
The Macedonian soot, and shine again.

SO'OTED. *adj.* [from soot.] Smeared, manured, or covered with
soot.

The land was sooted before.

SO'OTERKIN. *n. f.* A kind of false birth fabled to be produced
by the Dutch women from sitting over their stoves.

When Jove was, from his teeming head,
Of wit's fair goddess brought to-bed,
There follow'd at his lying-in,
For after-birth, a sooterkine.

SOOTH. *n. f.* [sooth, Saxon.] Truth; reality. Obsolete.

Sir, understand you this of me in sooth,
Th' youngest daughter, whom you hearken for,
Her father keeps from all access of suitors,
Until the eldest sister first be wed.

That e'er this tongue of mine,
That laid the sentence of dread banishment
On yond proud man, should take it off again
With words of sooth.

He looks like sooth: he says he loves my daughter;
I think so too; for never gaz'd the moon
Upon the water, as he'll stand and read
My daughter's eyes.

It I have any skill in soothfaying, as in sooth I have none,
it doth prognosticate that I shall change caps.

The very sooth of it is, that an ill habit has the force of an
ill fate.

I did not mean to chide you;
For, sooth to say, I hold it noble in you
To cherish the distress'd.

SOOTH. *adj.* [sooth, Saxon.] Pleasing; delightful.

Some other means I have,
Which once of Melibæus old I learn'd,
The soothest shepherd that e'er pip'd on plains.

To SOOTH. *v. a.* [soothian, Saxon.]

1. To flatter; to please with blandishments.
In soothfaying them, we nourish 'gainst our senate
The cockle of rebellion, insolence, sedition.

Can I sooth tyranny?
Seem pleas'd to see my royal master murder'd,
His crown usurp'd, a distaff in the throne?

By his fair daughter is the chief confin'd,
Who sooths to dear delight his anxious mind;
Successful all her soft caresses prove,
To banish from his breast his country's love.

Thinks he that Memnon, soldier as he is,
Thoughtless and dull, will listen to his soothfaying?

I've try'd the force of every reason on him,
Sooth'd and caress'd, been angry, sooth'd again;
Laid safety, life, and interest in his sight;
But all are vain, he scorns them all for Cato.

2. To calm; to soften; to mollify.
The beladame
Sooths her with blandishments, and frights with threats.

3. To gratify; to please.
This calm'd his cares; sooth'd with his future fame,
And pleas'd to hear his propagated name.

SO'OTHER. *n. f.* [from sooth.] A flatterer; one who gains by
blandishments.

I cannot flatter: I defy
The tongues of soothers.

To SOOTHSA'Y. *v. n.* [sooth and say.] To predict; to foretell.
A damsel, possessed with a spirit of divination, met us,
which brought her masters much gain by soothfaying.

SOOTHSA'YER.